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FISHERY MARKET NEWS

MARCH 1941

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A REVIEW OF CONDITIONS AND TRENDS OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

March 1941 Washington, D. C. Vol. 3, No. 3

SUMMARY

Special Articles

Shad and Herring Conservation in Maryland.--According to this writer, depletion of the Chesapeake Bay shad resources is costing Chesapeake fishermen a minimum of $700,000 per year. Only through decrease of fishing effort can this resource be rehabilitated. As an equitable method of decreasing fishing effort, the writer suggests the elimination of all gear of fishermen leaving the fishery and the issuance of no licenses for new gear.

Production of Fishery Products in the Gulf States during 1940.--The New Orleans Fishery Market News office presents its first annual summary of market movement of fishery products in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

Fresh Fish

Fishing vessels landed 20,784,000 pounds of fishery products in January at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Maine. This was a decrease of 4 million pounds from the January 1940 total.

The Chicago Wholesale Market received 5,487,000 pounds of fresh and frozen fishery products in January. This included 2,210,000 pounds of imported items. Fifty percent of the receipts arrived by freight, 35 percent by truck, and 15 percent by express.

Frozen Fish

Cold-storage warehouses in the United States and Alaska held 71,333,000 pounds of frozen fish and shellfish on February 15--a drop of 18 percent as compared with the same date in 1940. In the month ending February 15, 7,613,000 pounds of fish and shellfish were frozen--10 percent above the 1940 total for the corresponding period.

Market news reports show that at the end of February, Boston cold-storage plants held 10,615,000 pounds of fishery products; those at New York, 7,363,000 pounds; and Chicaco plants, 5,590,000 pounds. These represented decreases of 19 percent and 16 percent, and an increase of 4 percent, respectively, from the totals at the end of January.

Canned Fish

Only 459,000 cases of canned salmon remained unsold in the hands of packers on February 28--70 percent less than the stock unsold on the same date a year ago.

The season's pack of canned shrimp to March 1 lagged 15 percent behind last year's production. California packers canned 118,000 cases of tuna and 123,000 cases of mackerel in January, both decreases from the January 1940 packs.

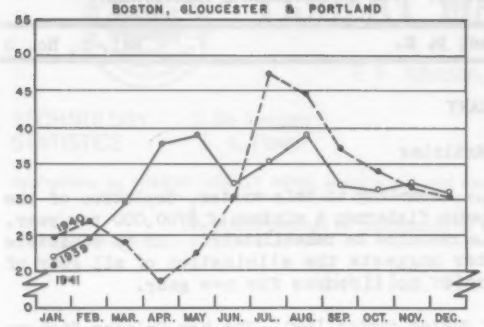
Foreign Fishery Trade

Exports of edible fishery products for January were 39 percent below those of January 1940 and imports dropped 29 percent. Exports totaled 10,583,000 pounds and imports, 27,697,000 pounds.

TRENDS OF FISHERY TRADE

In millions of pounds

VESSEL LANDINGS, ALL FRESH FISH
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



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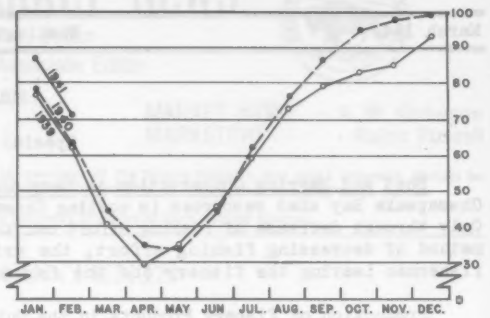

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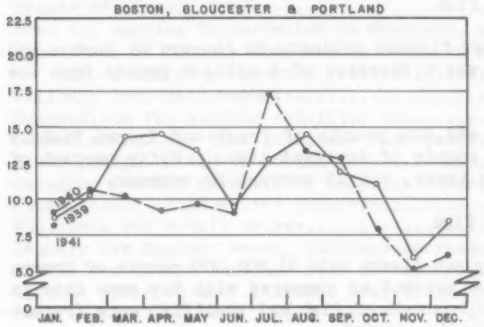
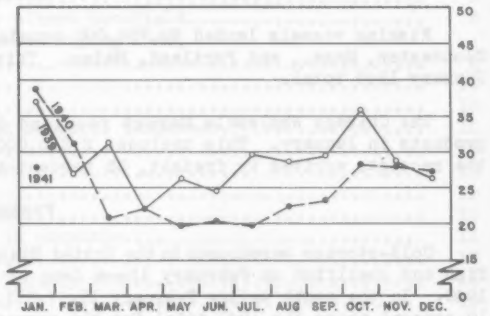
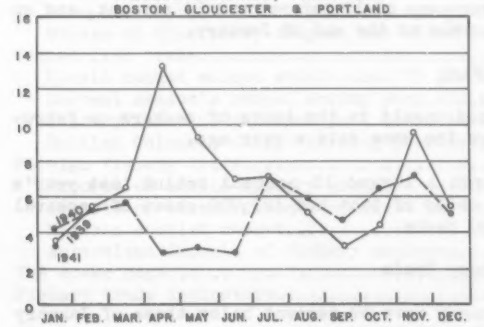


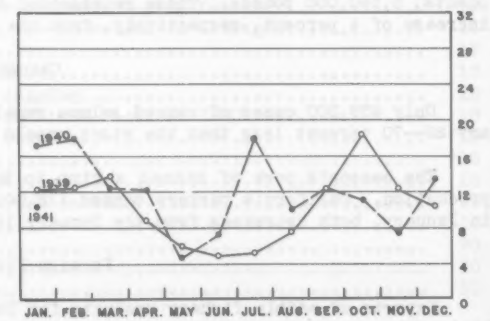
IMPORTS OF EDIBLE FISHERY COMMODITIES



VESSEL LANDINGS, FRESH COD
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



EXPORTS OF EDIBLE FISHERY COMMODITIES



SHAD AND HERRING CONSERVATION IN MARYLAND 1/

By Albert Woodfield, Chairman

Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee of Maryland

Present Situation: The yield of shad in the Chesapeake has declined from 15 million pounds to about one million pounds during recent years. At the low average of five cents a pound this decline is costing the Chesapeake fishermen 15,000,000 pounds - 1,000,000 pounds = 14,000,000 x 0.5 = $700,000.00. This loss is evidenced by the great decline in the number of fishermen and the income from the fish that are now not being caught. More than this, people, in general, are not assured of a dependable big supply of this fine fish food with the result that the market is uncertain and, in addition, the dealers who handle the products are not making money from the bigger sales.

The Advisory Committee has been asked, and has continued to ask others, what has been the cause of this decline. A lot of suggested explanations have been offered to us such as (1) pollution, (2) Virginia fishermen, (3) destruction of breeding grounds, (4) insufficient hatchery work, (5) Conowingo Dam, (6) motor boats, (7) trawling in the ocean near the Capes, (8) shad enemies, and (9) over-fishing.

Scientists at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and of the United States Government have made extensive checks on all these theories as to why shad have declined, and they have eliminated every single factor as a major element except over-fishing.

(1) We realize that there is some pollution, especially in the vicinity of Baltimore. Until the shad came back so strongly and abundantly in the Hudson River, where pollution is many times worse than it is in any of the Chesapeake areas, we had thought that this was an important factor in shad conservation. Pollution is now considered to be of little importance,

(2) The Virginia fishermen have suffered depletion, but not as great as Marylanders, for in the James, York, and Potomac Rivers, fished only by Virginians, the catches of shad are relatively better than in the Maryland rivers and in the Bay proper. Records of the catches and the tagging done by scientists offer evidence that Virginia is not so largely responsible for Maryland depletion.

(3) The breeding grounds are, with very minor exceptions, still intact and the water over them is as clean and chemically pure as it has been during the past few decades.

(4) Maryland has hatched millions upon millions of shad fry yearly--about 10,000,000 in 1940. In spite of this the supply has gone down. New York has hatched only a fraction as many shad as we have, yet up there the fish has been restored. This doesn't argue well for hatchery results nor does it leave us ground to expect much for shad replenishment in the Chesapeake. Hatching doesn't seem to be our answer.

(5) The Conowingo Dam cannot carry the full blame or even a large part of the blame for the decline of Chesapeake shad, since records show that the decline started before the dam was built and that the supply has not diminished faster since the dam was built.

(6) Motor boats are not an explanation, since certain of the high points in shad production in the Chesapeake Bay have taken place since motor boats became common.

(7) Chesapeake shad have been shown, through tagging and scale studies, to return to the Chesapeake Bay where they are hatched. More than this, once they have been to the Chesapeake Bay and then tagged and thrown overboard they have been shown to come back to the Chesapeake Bay only, and not to other bodies of water. All of the scientific work done indicates that Chesapeake shad cannot and are not turned from the Chesapeake Bay by trawlers or motor boat operations. In this connection there is no scientific indication that Chesapeake fish have left local waters and gone to the Hudson to increase the supply there. The two fish are different breeds and, as most fishermen know, even "smell different".

1/ An address presented at meeting of Rock Hall Fishermen's Protective Association, Rock Hall, Md., December 6, 1940. The Honorable Albert Woodfield, in addition to being Chairman of the Maryland Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee, is also a practical fisherman and a member of the Maryland House of Delegates.

(8) Shad have always had enemies in the Chesapeake Bay such as eels, perch, and a great number of other forms both large and small. Their great reproductive capacity then and now indicates that the fish enemies are not responsible for the decline. More than this, in the Hudson where shad has been restored there is an abundance of eels, carp, bass, and other fish enemies of the shad.

(9) It is generally recognized by Chesapeake fishermen that there has been too much fishing with the result that so many fish have been taken out of the water that not enough have been left to carry on the natural function of reproduction. This over-fishing has developed into failures, financial losses, and continued hard times for the fishermen in general. Since all the factors named above, either singly or combined, do not offer a sufficient explanation for the decline of the shad and herring fisheries the rest of this memorandum will be devoted to a discussion of over-fishing and suggested remedies for same in the hope that the shad supply will be brought back.

Remedy: Those of us in the fishing business, whether with nets or in the sales end, well know that we fish too hard for what we get out of the business. We know that we have to fish hard to break even or better if we are going to stay in the game. Most of us realize that we are not leaving enough fish in the waters to take care of breeding. We recognize, also, that the cure for the harm that is being done by too much fishing is simply that of not fishing so much. If we think the thing through we can see that this does not mean that we must catch fewer fish. What we must do to bring worthwhile profit is to catch more fish. This we can do by fishing fewer nets. Those of us who have given a lot of thought to this subject recognize that with fewer nets we can catch more fish in the long run. This can be done because fewer nets will catch nearly all of the fish by spreading the catch over a long period of time or even years. If a million fish come into the Bay and we catch half of them almost all of the other half million will keep until next year. In the meantime, they will spawn. The ones we don't catch this year will keep right on coming back to Maryland until we do catch them, since shad live to be six or seven years old, and every time they come back they spawn again. More than this, the more times they come back the bigger they will be because they continue to grow. So, fewer nets will catch practically all the shad and will let a big part of them spawn at least once and will cost us less to operate because we have to buy less gear.

The question that confronts us is how can we cut down the number of nets? We recognize that most of our fishermen are making a very poor living even with the number of nets they are now fishing. It would be disastrous for them to cut down their size or fish them part of the time. We must recognize that we can't put fishermen out of business even if we desired. But that is just what it would amount to if we forced them to do any less fishing than they are doing now. There seems to be only one answer. We will have to stop issuing licenses to new fishermen and not permit the fishermen now operating to set additional stands. Every year some men quit fishing for shad for one reason or another. Some of them die, some of them get better jobs, and others simply can't meet their bills and are forced to quit. Under such circumstances we should make it impossible for their nets to be replaced, or, that is, for new individuals to come into the business. Obviously, this will take time, but it is the only fair way to reduce fishing and at the same time not injure anybody in the business. Also, it is the only way to keep up the runs after they come back. Even if our fishermen and their families could live on nothing while we made each of them cut down on nets or fishing done it wouldn't do any good in the long run if, as soon as a few came back, new fishermen would take out licenses and get the benefit of the sacrifices made by those of us now in the business. The same would be true if we stopped fishing two or even three days a week, as is often suggested. What would happen under these circumstances is perfectly plain to us, for after we have invested our money in poles, nets, and boats, and hired people to fish, our capital and labor would be idle a big part of the time and yet when more fish came back as a result of an increase in the brood stock new fishermen would come in with new nets to reap the profits, while those of us who have made the sacrifice would be no better off, since sooner or later all the fish would be caught up and the remedy made worthless. Those of us now in the business and those who would come into it under such conditions of improvement would, in the long run, be much better off. New men would lose their investment in gear and we would have to go through the whole business over again. In short, when we make the sacrifice we should be rewarded and allowed to participate in the increased profits that sooner or later would follow.

We know that the people who criticize us don't know what they are talking about. We are not bad, selfish, grasping men. We are men trying to make an honest and decent living. Not one of us, as an individual, is doing anything wrong. Not one of us is doing anything he does not have to do to make a living. We all know that we are doing nothing wrong. We resent charges that we lack in public spirit because we object to interference with our way of doing things. Our way is not only the best way but the only possible way to fish for a living. The real trouble is that there are just too many honest and industrious men all doing the best they can. Our combined efforts are now running afoul of natural laws. Let's be practical and deal with the facts as they are. Fortunately for us, the program that we are working on finds full sympathy from Mr. Edwin Warfield, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, and his associates who, instead of criticizing us and dictating to us approve of our efforts and hope for their success. The Commission and the scientists have pledged their full support to improve the shad and herring situation in the Chesapeake.

Conclusion: There are certain simple facts that confront us Chesapeake fishermen and we should make up our minds to face them or else join the big group of people who have invested much money and time only to be wiped out by ultimate failure. These simple facts are:

(1) Each fisherman must use enough gear and catch enough shad to make a living.

(2) All of the fishermen together must not take more fish from each year's run of shad than will permit a sufficient brood stock to be kept in the waters in order to assure next year's run. Bear in mind in this connection that the fish we leave in the waters in a given year are not lost and most of them return the following year at a larger size to spawn again.

(3) New fishermen must be kept from taking the place of the ones that quit until, without reducing the income of the remaining fishermen, enough shad escape to do the required job of reproduction. We feel that this kind of control is legally possible, since it is similar to the control of sheep grazing on public ranges and to taxicab control in Baltimore City, all for exactly the same reasons.

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PRODUCTION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS IN THE GULF STATES DURING 1940

By C. Eldred Peterson, Assistant Fishery Marketing Specialist
Division of Fishery Industries

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Fishery Market News Service of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service began publishing a daily report in New Orleans, La., covering market information on fishery products in the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas on January 5, 1940. Now, for the first time, there is available a record of the periodic variations in abundance of the various fishery products produced in the more important coastal areas of these States. Since it was not practicable to include every locality in this large region, the figures cover only the important production points.

According to dealers, 1940 was the poorest year for salt-water fish within their memories. They commonly blame the unusually severe freezing weather of last January for this condition. The quantity of shrimp taken is believed to be somewhat less than that caught during 1939, although probably greater than in most previous years. Generally speaking, during the latter part of 1940 jumbo shrimp were noticeably scarce.

In Table I may be found the monthly production by areas. The names of the areas are those used in the daily Fishery Products Report issued by the New Orleans office and are believed to be sufficiently descriptive, with the possible exception of the New Orleans and Lower Mississippi River area. This area includes that territory in Louisiana south of and including New Orleans, and east of and including Grand Isle and Golden Meadows. Port Lavaca, Tex., and Cameron, La., are omitted from the following discussions as information from those areas during 1940 was very incomplete.

TABLE I--PRODUCTION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS AS REPORTED TO FISHERY MARKET NEWS SERVICE IN NEW ORLEANS, LA., 1940: By areas

Area and product	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
NEW ORLEANS & LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA:													
Fresh-water fish lbs.	4,140	10,390	47,290	43,550	20,020	7,970	7,000	17,470	7,600	9,330	10,590	16,150	201,500
Salt-water fish "	120,570	80,960	41,980	38,770	52,260	18,840	55,330	33,860	19,450	62,500	33,190	33,770	591,480
Crabs:													
Hard "	85,720	89,580	285,040	1,003,360	1,498,840	1,375,760	1,188,160	1,044,480	638,520	822,880	592,760	349,640	8,974,740
Soft doz.	--	--	50	5,249	4,153	4,039	4,165	2,135	3,249	854	49	--	23,943
Crab meat lbs.	(1)	(1)	--	108,459	179,506	136,780	91,629	98,980	52,020	69,580	50,850	22,340	810,144
Oysters:													
For canning bbls.	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	12,200	12,200
Other "	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	14,797	12,440	14,805	42,042
Shrimp:													
For canning "	720	--	--	2,460	1,580	835	--	18,998	35,840	32,255	5,082	4,918	102,688
Other "	1,642	1,269	2,918	5,565	10,975	3,125	1,264	2,116	3,694	3,649	2,109	2,470	40,796
Other shellfish lbs.	1,100	780	25,050	27,090	24,470	4,850	1,390	6,940	1,640	1,410	700	200	95,620
HOUMA, CHAUVIN & DULAC AREA:													
Fresh-water fish lbs.	2,640	5,190	14,640	20,370	18,840	2,500	770	4,520	1,420	5,780	5,530	1,903	84,103
Salt-water fish "	23,530	1,400	690	350	--	400	800	250	--	330	650	--	28,400
Oysters bbls.	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	3,555	3,696	4,781	12,032
Shrimp:													
For canning "	443	396	40	564	1,579	1,602	--	7,931	10,464	11,557	2,053	2,963	39,592
Other "	--	15	404	3,309	6,080	1,653	388	343	258	106	68	60	12,684
Other shellfish lbs.	--	100	930	730	--	2,820	3,580	5,530	1,210	--	--	--	14,900
MORGAN CITY, BERWICK & PATTERSON:													
Fresh-water fish lbs.	35,584	66,920	143,970	165,480	123,220	96,010	110,290	111,760	67,350	76,350	56,430	57,961	1,111,325
Salt-water fish "	--	8,100	6,900	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	7,100	7,000	34,100
Crabs, hard "	--	--	22,030	59,930	210,970	283,030	453,870	609,970	221,560	305,120	315,970	41,600	2,524,050
Crab meat "	(1)	(1)	(1)	1,180	21,570	24,180	38,000	51,635	18,980	25,600	23,760	3,280	208,185
Oysters bbls.	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	1,065	310	250	1,625
Shrimp "	2,305	5,733	7,324	6,778	8,544	8,138	8,699	3,093	2,710	7,115	3,352	4,189	67,980
Other shellfish "	--	--	11,420	1,950	--	11,490	3,980	3,940	1,700	--	--	--	34,480
CAMERON:3/													
Shrimp "	--	--	21	76	69	117	30	--	214	--	--	--	527
MOBILE & BAYOU LABATRE:													
Fresh-water fish lbs.	400	4,740	4,250	4,550	2,280	400	4,650	2,450	900	500	--	200	25,320
Salt-water fish "	153,930	124,700	144,360	168,850	222,780	159,280	240,200	256,230	244,130	345,720	280,140	284,830	2,625,150
Crabs, hard "	--	--	9,800	26,800	72,800	44,950	61,050	43,580	13,070	17,310	1,380	--	290,740
Crab meat "	(1)	(1)	(1)	5,782	17,490	12,090	16,005	11,340	2,220	3,280	510	--	68,717
Oysters:													
For canning bbls.	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	2,377	2,377
Other "	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	8,899	6,628	5,113	20,640
Shrimp:													
For canning "	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,825	3,159	2,982	1,762	1,285	11,013
Other "	383	867	--	100	184	104	214	609	1,238	2,019	866	947	7,358
Other shellfish lbs.					288								

HILOXI:

For canning	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,825	3,159	2,982	1,762	1,285	11,013
Other	"	383	867	=	100	104	104	214	609	1,238	2,019	866	247	7,351
Other shellfish	lbs.					489								520
BILOXI:														
Salt-water fish	lbs.	1,980	--	3,030	--	1,900	3,750	340	--	3,830	11,610	1,040	2,530	30,010
Crabs, hard	"	5,376	7,530	34,100	14,130	35,860	31,580	21,244	22,340	15,850	19,790	16,010	13,870	237,680
Crab meat	"	(1)	(1)	(1)	2,240	5,860	4,970	2,848	3,430	2,490	2,970	2,660	2,200	29,668
Oysters:														
For canning	bbls.	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	43,232	43,232
Other	"	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	3,511	5,159	5,875	14,545
Shrimp:														
For canning	"	288	39	317	115	79	--	--	--	1,254	5,029	3,977	3,856	14,954
Other	"	856	859	1,860	1,801	3,348	3,080	1,448	740	4,949	8,757	7,040	4,159	38,897
GALVESTON, FREEPORT & SABINE PASS:														
Salt-water fish	lbs.	58,550	52,000	32,980	72,700	57,600	58,200	43,090	55,690	42,000	95,430	72,000	51,800	692,040
Oysters	bbls.	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	584	887	906	2,377
Shrimp	"	352	20	1,041	1,916	1,784	1,644	840	1,494	4,424	7,146	1,378	3,744	25,783
PORT LAVACA AREA:														
Shrimp	"	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	4,763	4,686	2,753	1,452	13,654
TOTALS:														
Fresh-water fish	lbs.	42,764	87,240	210,150	233,950	164,360	106,880	122,710	136,200	77,270	91,960	72,550	76,214	1,422,248
Salt-water fish	"	358,560	267,160	229,940	280,670	334,540	240,470	339,760	346,030	309,410	520,590	394,120	379,930	4,001,180
Crabs:														
Hard	"	91,096	97,110	350,970	1,104,220	1,818,470	1,735,320	1,724,324	1,720,370	889,000	1,165,100	926,120	405,110	12,027,210
Soft	doz.	--	--	50	5,249	4,153	4,039	4,165	2,135	3,249	854	49	--	23,943
Crab meat	lbs.	(1)	(1)	(1)	117,661	224,426	178,020	148,482	165,385	75,710	101,430	77,760	27,820	1,116,714
Oysters:														
For canning	bbls.	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	57,809	57,809
Other	"	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	32,411	29,120	31,730	93,261
Shrimp:														
For canning	"	1,451	435	357	3,139	3,238	2,437	--	28,754	50,717	51,823	12,874	13,022	168,247
Other	"	5,538	8,763	13,568	19,445	30,904	17,861	12,883	8,395	22,250	33,478	17,566	17,021	207,672
Other shellfish	lbs.	1,100	880	37,400	29,870	24,870	19,160	8,950	16,410	4,550	1,410	700	200	145,500

1/ Information on crab meat not available prior to April 1.
2/ Information on oysters for canning was not collected prior to December 1, and for other purposes before October 1.
3/ Information on production in Cameron is incomplete.
4/ Information on production in Port Lavaca not available prior to September 1.

Note.--Oysters are listed in State barrels of the respective States. Shrimp are listed, heads on, in 210-pound barrels, the equivalent of 125 pounds, heads off, and do not include shrimp used for drying.

Fresh-water fish were reported from four of the areas listed. Of the total landings, 78 percent was reported from Morgan City, Berwick, and Patterson, with nearly two-thirds of the balance coming from the New Orleans and Lower Mississippi River area. Over one-half of the total consisted of catfish, with buffalofish and gaspergou (fresh-water sheepshead) accounting for practically all of the remainder. The largest production was during the period from March through May.

Salt-water fish were reported from six areas. The three most important were Mobile and Bayou Labatre; Galveston, Freeport, and Sabine Pass; and the New Orleans and Lower Mississippi River area.

The most important species in Mobile and Bayou Labatre were red snapper, mullet and grouper. Red snapper were landed throughout the year, but the best months, in order of importance, were December, October, and November. Grouper, which are generally taken by the snapper boats, were also caught throughout the year, with the heaviest production in August, May, and November. The largest quantities of mullet were produced during the months of October, November, and July.

Table II--SHRIMP PRODUCTION FOR ALL PURPOSES EXCEPT DRYING, 1940: By areas and months
(Expressed in percentages of the total production)

Month	Total production	New Orleans & Lower Mississippi River area		Houma, Chauvin & Dulac area		Morgan City Berwick & Patterson		Mobile & Bayou Labatre		Biloxi		Galveston, Freeport & Sabine Pass		Total	
1940	Barrels	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total
Jan.	6,989	1	34	1	6	3	33	2	5	2	17	1	5	2	100
Feb.	9,198	1	14	1	4	8	62	5	10	1	10	*	*	3	100
Mar.	13,904	2	21	1	3	11	53	0	0	4	16	4	7	4	100
Apr.	22,508	6	36	7	17	10	30	0	0	4	9	8	8	6	100
May	34,073	9	37	15	23	13	25	1	*	6	10	7	5	9	100
June	20,181	3	20	6	16	12	40	1	1	6	15	6	8	5	100
July	12,853	1	10	1	3	13	68	1	2	3	11	3	6	4	100
Aug.	37,149	15	57	16	22	5	8	13	7	1	2	6	4	10	100
Sept.	67,990	27	58	20	16	4	4	24	6	12	9	17	7	19	100
Oct.	80,615	25	45	22	14	10	9	27	6	26	17	28	9	22	100
Nov.	27,687	5	26	4	8	5	12	14	9	20	40	5	5	8	100
Dec.	28,591	5	26	6	10	6	15	12	8	15	28	15	13	8	100
Year	361,738	100	40	100	14	100	19	100	5	100	15	100	7	100	100

* Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent.
Note--Port Lavaca, Tex., and Cameron, La., are omitted because of incomplete data.

In Galveston, Freeport, and Sabine Pass by far the most important species taken was red snapper. The largest production of this species was during October, November, and April.

In the New Orleans and Lower Mississippi River area the two most important varieties were red drum (redfish) and spotted sea trout. Most of the red drum were taken during January, February, and May. Over 40 percent of the spotted sea trout were caught during January, the next two months in order of importance being October and July.

Hard crabs and crab meat were reported from four areas--New Orleans and Lower Mississippi River area; Morgan City, Berwick, and Patterson; Mobile and Bayou Labatre; and Biloxi. Information on crab meat was not collected prior to April 1 but the production could not have been large since the quantity of hard crabs taken during that period is known to be small. Approximately three-fourths of the hard crabs reported were caught in the New Orleans and Lower Mississippi River area, and over two-thirds of the balance in the Morgan City area.

In the New Orleans area, the largest landings of hard crabs were during May, June, and July. The greatest production of crab meat was during May, June, and April. In Morgan City, Berwick, and Patterson, the heaviest landings of hard crabs were during August, July, and November. The largest production of crab meat was during August, July, and October.

Soft crabs were reported only in the New Orleans and Lower Mississippi River area. The best months for soft crabs were April, May, and July.

Oysters in varying amounts were reported from six areas. Information on oysters was not collected previous to October 1, and on oysters used for canning before December 1. Consequently, no conclusions regarding seasonal variations during the first part of the year

may be drawn. During the period that information was obtained Biloxi used the largest quantity of oysters for canning while the largest amount taken for other purposes was reported from the New Orleans and Lower Mississippi River area.

Shrimp was the most important product both in volume and value in the Gulf region. By reference to Table II, it will be seen that, with the exception of the Morgan City area, the greatest production of shrimp was during the "fall season", that is, from August to December. Production in Biloxi was light during August and September because there was no canning done there during August and the first part of September due to price disagreements. In other areas, however, the canning season got under way during the latter part of August. In most of these areas the "spring season", April to June, was of considerably less importance than the "fall season" but was generally more important than the balance of the year.

TABLE III--SHRIMP PRODUCTION REPORTED FOR CANNING, 1940: By areas and months
(Expressed in percentages of total production in each area for all purposes except drying)

Month	Quantity reported for canning	New Orleans & Lower Mississippi River area	Houma, Chauvin & Dulac area	Mobile & Bayou Labatre	Biloxi	All areas
1940	Barrels					
January	1,451	31	100	0	25	21
February	435	0	96	0	4	5
March	357	0	9	0	15	3
April	3,139	31	15	0	6	14
May	3,238	13	21	0	2	10
June	2,437	21	49	0	0	12
July	--	0	0	0	0	0
August	28,754	90	96	75	0	77
September	50,717	91	98	72	20	75
October	51,823	90	99	60	36	64
November	12,874	71	97	67	36	46
December	13,022	67	98	57	48	46
Year	168,247	72	76	60	28	47

Note--Does not include small quantity of shrimp canned in Morgan City, Berwick, and Patterson, La., area.

The shrimp fishery in Morgan City, Berwick, and Patterson was the most consistent of any area throughout the year, there being no month in which over 13 percent or less than 3 percent of the total catch was taken. The best months of the year were those from March through July and the month of October, each of which accounted for 10 percent or more of the total annual production. As the fishery from this locality is primarily conducted in "outside waters" it is more affected by the weather than that in other areas.

The percentage of shrimp reported to be canned (Table III) was greatest in Houma and vicinity where approximately 76 percent of the total shrimp produced was for canning. The lowest percentage in areas having canneries was reported from Biloxi, where only 28 percent of the total was listed for canning. The above-mentioned price disagreement undoubtedly contributed to this low percentage, as a full month of the best canning season was lost. July was the only month in which no shrimp was reported for canning in any of the areas listed. The largest quantity and, generally, the largest percentage of the monthly production of shrimp used for canning was utilized during the "fall season". High percentages for canning during other months (for example, January) were usually accompanied by a low level of production as actually 93 percent of the annual total reported for canning was reported from August to December, inclusive, and 78 percent from August to October, inclusive.

Other shellfish and miscellaneous varieties were reported from four areas. The largest quantity was reported from the New Orleans and Lower Mississippi River area. It consisted principally of turtles, crayfish, and frogs. Most of these were taken during March, April, and May. In the Morgan City area and the Houma area the production consisted principally of frogs, which were taken in the largest quantities during March and from June through August.

MILITARY FOOD REQUIREMENTS

In summarizing the national food situation, the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Economics makes the following statement regarding military food requirements during the fiscal year 1940-41: "The increasing military forces will have little effect on civilian food supplies in 1940-41. Total military personnel in active service is estimated to average about 1,030,000 in the 1940-41 fiscal year as compared with 423,000 in 1939-40, or an increase of roughly 600,000 men. The Army ration calls for considerably more meat, butter, cereals, and potatoes than the average civilian consumes. The Army uses less fresh milk and less fruit than civilians and tends to use canned vegetables and fruits rather than the fresh commodities. Undoubtedly the average active man being drawn into the armed forces also consumes more food than the average of the entire population. If, however, one allows for all the differences between the ration and the United States average consumption, the increases due to the 600,000 men is still equal to less than 1 percent of the prospective consumption of any of the major food groups. The increase is less than one-half of 1 percent for all foods.

SUGGESTIONS FOR STORING COD-LIVER OIL

An investigation into the storage requirements of the important vitamin containing cod-liver oil which was undertaken by the American Association of Refrigerated Warehouses indicated that a temperature of 39° F. is the favorable temperature for the successful storing of that oil; however, a temperature ranging from a minimum of 40° F. to a maximum of 50° F. is still considered satisfactory. Air circulation is required and the humidity should be kept low. At a temperature of 39° F. it is said that the potency of the oil is retained and the loss of vitamin A, an unstable vitamin, is prevented. Vitamin D is fairly stable. At higher temperatures it was found that there was considerable bacterial growth while temperatures below 39° F. resulted in the freezing out of stearin, a residual fat. The oil carries a bad odor when packed in barrels and should be placed only in rooms where the odor will not permeate other goods.

CANNED SALMON AND TUNA IMPORTANT FOOD ITEMS IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Canned salmon and canned tuna were important items in the homes of 26 cities in the Memphis metropolitan area. According to a home inventory study sponsored by the Commercial Appeal and the Press-Scimitar of Memphis, canned salmon was on the pantry shelves of 31 percent of the 2,254 homes surveyed during March and April of 1940, while canned tunafish was present in 23 percent of the homes. Nearly 40 percent of the homes that had canned tunafish on their pantry shelves reported that four or more cans of this food were consumed each month. At the same time, the consumption of four or more cans of salmon was reported by about 42 percent of the homes with that item on hand. The sample surveyed consisted of active buying families representing all major occupational groups and accounting for 5 percent of the Memphis metropolitan market.

LOWER FREIGHT RATES ON FROZEN FISH

Carload rates on frozen fish from terminals of the Pacific Coast to Chicago were reduced on February 1, 1941, from $2.06 to $1.73 per hundred weight, according to a report contained in a Commercial Fisherman's Weekly. Rail tariff to the Atlantic Seaboard, however, remained unchanged. As a result of lower rates, it is understood that shipments of frozen fish from Seattle were materially increased.

CANADIAN LOBSTER ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFUL

As a result of an advertising campaign, Canadian sales of canned lobsters have increased as much as 450 percent over sales during corresponding periods in previous years, according

to the Canadian Fisherman. Mr. Akins, manager of the campaign, reports a ready market for quality canned lobsters. It was decided that there should be uniform labels on all canned lobsters and that three grades be used--fancy, choice, and standard.

NEWFOUNDLAND COOPERATIVES PROGRESS

Evidence of the success of fishermen's cooperatives in obtaining higher prices for fishery products marketed from the west coast of Newfoundland was cited by Gerald Richardson in the Maritime Cooperator published in Nova Scotia. During the 1940 season, 1,500 lobster fishermen received $225,000 from their cooperative marketing association for their catch. This amount represented about 40 percent more than they would have received from private lobster marketing companies. Moreover, members have stretched their incomes through the cooperative purchasing of supplies, thus making substantial savings. The association has also been responsible for opening up new fishing grounds previously untouched.

Leaders of the cooperative attribute its success to a strong credit union structure through which operations are financed. These credit unions, having over 800 members and a capital amounting to more than $14,000, made loans to members during the past fiscal year totaling $23,000, and no losses were sustained. Besides the financial service rendered, it is the opinion of leaders that these loans go far in strengthening the moral fiber of the members.

Growth of the cooperative movement on the east coast of Newfoundland is clearly indicated by the fact that there are now 26 credit unions in existence and twelve in formation, as compared with seven unions in 1937. No less than forty Newfoundland communities now have credit unions for provident purposes and to facilitate cooperative retailing and marketing. If developments continue at their present rate, it is estimated that there will be fifty societies on the Avalon Peninsula alone by next summer.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES

The all-commodity index of nearly 900 wholesale price series remained unchanged at 80.5 percent of the 1926 average, the base year for comparing price data, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics report for the week ended February 15, 1941. This level, however, is about 2.8 percent above the figure for the approximate corresponding date during 1940. The index of wholesale food prices on February 15, 1941, stood at 73.3 percent of the 1926 average, which was an increase of 0.3 percent over the previous week and 4.0 percent over the figure on that date in the previous year.

Retail costs of food as determined by a survey in 51 large cities throughout the country showed an advance of 1.5 percent from mid-December to mid-January. As compared with the middle of January in 1940, prices on January 15 of the current year were 3 percent higher.

Fresh and frozen fish retail prices advanced nearly 5 percent during the year ending with mid-January 1941. Pink salmon selling at an average of 15.7 cents per one-pound can had increased 5.4 percent during the same period, while a one-pound tin of red salmon retailing at an average price of 26.4 cents was 4.3 percent higher.

JANUARY NEW ENGLAND VESSEL LANDINGS DECREASE IN POUNDAGE

Landings of fishery products by vessels of five net tons or over at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Maine, during January 1941 amounted to 20,784,000 pounds, valued at $858,000 to the fishermen, according to Fisheries Statistical Bulletin No. 1413. This represents a decrease of over 4,000,000 pounds when compared with the landings for January 1940. In spite of the decline in landings, fishermen received over $20,000 more for their catch than was obtained during the same month last year. The average price for all items landed during January of the current year was 4.13 cents per pound as compared with an average of 3.35 cents for the same month in 1939--an increase of 23 percent.

Leading items landed at the three ports during January included cod, 3,314,000 pounds, valued at $171,000; haddock, 8,172,000 pounds, valued at $403,000; hake, 283,000 pounds, valued at $17,000; pollock, 1,862,000 pounds, valued at $53,000; cusk, 351,000 pounds, valued at $15,000; flounders, 1,634,000 pounds, valued at $63,000; and rosefish, 5,284,000 pounds, valued at $127,000.

PRICES FOR BOSTON LANDINGS RISE IN JANUARY

The prices paid for fish sold through the New England Fish Exchange at the Boston Fish Pier were considerably higher for all important items in January 1941 than they were for the previous month or for January 1940, according to the Boston office of the Fishery Market News Service. The increase in price accompanied smaller total landings, but the total sum paid to the fishermen was only slightly less. Sales in January totaled $747,000 compared with $796,000 for December and $750,000 for January 1940.

Offshore vessels supplied 92 percent of the total landings and recorded 176 fares to 236 fares listed for inshore craft.

Landings and Prices of Fishery Products at Boston

Item	January 1941		Change from December 1940		Change from January 1940	
	Landings	Av. price(cwt)	Landings	Av. price	Landings	Av. price
	lbs.	$	%	%	%	%
Offshore vessels	15,055,000	4.61	-19	+19	-25	+29
Inshore craft	1,307,000	3.96	-49	+31	+67	- 6
Total	16,362,000	4.57	-23	+22	-22	+28
Leading items:						
Offshore						
Cod, large	1,684,000	5.36	0	+18	0	+ 7
Cod, market	1,144,000	4.87	-58	+28	-44	+29
Haddock, large	4,789,000	5.51	+18	+ 3	-13	+21
Haddock scrod	3,071,000	4.00	+66	+ 3	0	+16
Pollock	1,480,000	3.26	-61	+55	-40	+51
Rosefish	1,430,000	2.63	-36	+17	-60	+59
Inshore						
Cod, large	93,000	6.91	-14	+20	+ 4	+23
Cod, market	219,000	5.38	-38	+29	+14	+16
Gray sole	109,000	5.50	+142	+ 5	+57	+23
Haddock	60,000	6.87	-62	- 2	+158	+ 7
Pollock	12,000	3.43	-99	+62	+213	+63
Rosefish	456,000	2.71	+618	+22	+819	+68
Yellowtails	199,000	1.93	- 31	+12	+ 2	-38

CHICAGO RECEIPTS SHOW INCREASE OVER THOSE OF JANUARY 1940

Receipts of fishery products during January at the Chicago Wholesale Market were 34 percent greater than those of January 1940. There were 5,487,000 pounds of products received, according to the Chicago office of the Fishery Market News Service. Seventy-seven items were handled, including 31 fish from fresh-water sources, 31 fish from salt-water, and 15 shellfish and miscellaneous items. Of the total poundage received, 62 percent was composed of fresh-water fish and 20 percent was salt-water fish. Truck shipments accounted for 35 percent of the total weight, 15 percent came to Chicago by express, and 50 percent was shipped by freight.

Receipts of Fishery Products at Chicago

Item	January 1941	Jan. 1941 compared with Dec. 1940	Jan. 1941 compared with Jan. 1940	December 1940	January 1940
Classification:	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds
Fresh-water fish	3,381,000	+ 13	+ 47	3,003,000	2,304,000
Salt-water fish	1,110,000	- 20	+ 10	1,388,000	1,008,000
Shellfish, etc.	996,000	- 35	+ 26	1,523,000	789,000
Total receipts	5,487,000	- 7	+ 34	5,914,000	4,101,000
Leading items:*					
Sauger	865,000	+ 74	+ 72	496,000	503,000
Whitefish	416,000	+109	+ 12	199,000	373,000
Lake trout	409,000	+ 5	+ 32	389,000	309,000
Yellow perch	358,000	+ 23	+ 82	292,000	197,000
Lake herring	309,000	- 47	+ 44	588,000	214,000
Halibut	435,000	- 27	- 18	593,000	531,000
Shrimp	625,000	- 21	+109	793,000	299,000
Leading sources:					
Louisiana	541,000	- 21	+169	687,000	201,000
Massachusetts	478,000	- 18	+ 56	583,000	306,000
Wisconsin	461,000	- 34	+ 30	700,000	355,000
Michigan	436,000	+ 15	+ 40	378,000	311,000
Domestic total	3,277,000	- 25	+ 39	4,377,000	2,355,000
Imported total	2,210,000	+ 44	+ 27	1,537,000	1,746,000
Transported by:					
Truck	1,927,000	- 23	+ 84	2,500,000	1,048,000
Express	801,000	- 5	- 33	847,000	1,204,000
Freight	2,759,000	+ 8	+ 49	2,567,000	1,849,000

* Includes fresh and frozen fish.

PACIFIC COAST HALIBUT FISHERY TO START APRIL 1

In accordance with the regulations of the International Fisheries Commission approved on March 22, the 1941 Pacific Coast halibut season will open at midnight, March 31, the same date as for the 1940 season.

The quota in area 3 for 1941 has been increased one million pounds to 26,300,000 pounds while the quota in area 2 remains the same, at 22,700,000 pounds. This increase permits a total quota of 49,000,000 pounds, as compared with 48,000,000 during the 1940 season in areas 2 and 3. There is no quota set for area 1, south of Willapa Harbor, but the area will be closed at the same time as area 2. Other features of the 1941 regulations are essentially the same as during 1940.

It has also been announced that the Pacific Coast halibut season for 1942 will open on April 15, rather than April 1.

FROZEN FISH TRADE

Frozen Fish Trade in 1940

In 1940 the freezing plants in the United States and Alaska reporting their activities to the Government froze 196,155,000 pounds of fishery products, according to Fish and Wildlife Statistical Bulletin No. 1412. At the time these products were held in cold-storage plants their value was estimated to be about $15,000,000. The 1940 production of frozen fish was greater than in any other year on record and exceeded the previous high which occurred in 1938 by more than 10,000,000 pounds. The items frozen in the greatest quantities were as follows: Whiting, 21,610,000 pounds; rosefish fillets, 19,156,000 pounds; halibut, 18,274,000 pounds; haddock fillets, 16,712,000 pounds; shrimp, 15,986,000 pounds; mackerel, 12,865,000 pounds; and pollock fillets, 9,660,000 pounds. These seven items accounted for 58 percent of the total volume of fishery products frozen during the year. With the exception of haddock fillets, each of the items listed above held the same relative position with respect to

the volume frozen as in the previous year. In 1939 haddock, with a production of 19,367,000 pounds, was the largest single item frozen.

The freezing of fishery products was heaviest from June to November, inclusive, the quantities frozen each month during this period exceeding 21,000,000 pounds. The largest production during a single month occurred during July when 25,064,000 pounds of fish and shellfish were frozen.

During 1940 the average monthly holdings of frozen fish and shellfish in all sections amounted to 68,111,000 pounds as compared with 63,681,000 pounds in 1939, and 67,994,000 pounds in 1938. Monthly holdings averaged highest in the New England section, while those in the Pacific section were second, and those in the Middle Atlantic section were third. These three sections held the same relative positions in this respect as in the previous year. The largest supplies were in storage in December when 100,088,000 pounds were on hand. This was the largest quantity of frozen fishery products ever held in this country. The smallest quantity in storage occurred in May when 33,753,000 pounds were held.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN FISHERY PRODUCTS GREATER THAN IN 1940

Domestic stocks of frozen fish and shellfish declined to 71,333,000 pounds on February 15, 1941, a drop of 15,547,000 pounds as compared with the holdings on the same date in January, according to information released in Fish and Wildlife Statistical Bulletin No. 1414. However, February 15 stocks of frozen fishery products were nearly nine million pounds greater than those on the same date in 1940 and were almost 11 million pounds larger than the average holdings on February 15 for the past five years.

Holdings of all important items except smelts, blue pike and sauger, and whitefish showed marked declines during the month ended February 15. These species showed gains of 32 percent, 101 percent, and 1 percent, respectively.

Stocks of halibut on February 15 were 114 percent greater than those on the same date in 1940, while holdings of smelts and blue pike and sauger were 229 percent and 111 percent, respectively, above the quantities in storage on the same date last year. February 15 holdings of all important items except mackerel and lake herring were greater than those on the same date in 1940.

Holdings of Fishery Products in United States Cold-storage Plants 1/

Item	Feb. 15 1941	Feb. 15 compared with Jan. 15 1941	Feb. 15 1940	5-yr. av. Feb. 15	Jan. 15 1941	Feb. 15 1940	5-yr. av. Feb. 15
	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Frozen fish & shellfish:							
Total holdings	71,333,000	- 18	+ 14	+18	86,880,000	62,622,000	60,362,000
Important items:							
Fillets:							
Cod	2,020,000	- 23	+ 43	(2)	2,621,000	1,416,000	(2)
Haddock	4,134,000	- 18	+ 25	+ 7	5,066,000	3,303,000	3,858,000
Pollock	4,933,000	- 20	+ 11	(2)	6,128,000	4,458,000	(2)
Halibut	5,697,000	- 25	+114	+46	7,607,000	2,658,000	3,914,000
Mackerel	4,259,000	- 31	(3)	+26	6,132,000	4,278,000	3,367,000
Sablefish	2,141,000	- 12	+ 17	+49	2,441,000	1,826,000	1,434,000
Salmon	6,844,000	- 22	+ 70	+ 1	8,791,000	4,023,000	6,759,000
Smelts	1,983,000	+ 32	+229	+71	1,499,000	603,000	1,163,000
Whiting	6,274,000	- 28	+ 10	- 3	8,663,000	5,714,000	6,490,000
Blue pike and sauger	1,219,000	+101	+111	+95	607,000	578,000	625,000
Lake herring	1,807,000	- 28	- 11	+34	2,509,000	2,036,000	1,345,000
Whitefish	2,048,000	+ 1	+ 14	+43	2,033,000	1,798,000	1,433,000
Scallops	1,141,000	- 25	+ 44	(2)	1,520,000	792,000	(2)
Shrimp	5,143,000	- 11	+ 69	(2)	5,808,000	3,051,000	(2)

Holdings of Fishery Products in United States Cold-storage Plants (continued) 1/

Item	Feb. 15 1941	Feb. 15 compared with Jan. 15 1941	Feb. 15 compared with Feb. 15 1940	Feb. 15 compared with 5-yr. av. Feb. 15	Jan. 15 1941	Jan. 15 1940	5-yr. av. Feb. 15
Cured fish:	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Herring, cured	14,201,000	-14	-13	- 4	16,609,000	16,335,000	14,728,000
Salmon, mild-cured	3,430,000	-17	-46	-30	4,116,000	6,401,000	4,866,000

1/ Statistics furnished by the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture.
2/ Data not available.
3/ A decline of less than one-half of one percent.

Freezing of Haddock, Whitefish, and Shrimp Show Marked Increase

A total of 7,613,000 pounds of fish and shellfish was frozen during the month ended February 15, 1940--a decline of 6 percent as compared with the previous month, but 10 percent above the quantity frozen during the same period in 1940. Three items accounted for 51 percent of the total poundage of fish and shellfish frozen during the month ended February 15. These were haddock fillets, which accounted for 18 percent of the total; rosefish fillets, 16 percent; and shrimp, 17 percent.

Freezings of Fishery Products in United States Cold-storage Plants 1/
(Figures are for the month ending on the date indicated)

Item	Feb. 15 1941	Feb. 15 compared with Jan. 15 1941	Feb. 15 compared with Feb. 15 1940	Feb. 15 compared with 5-yr. av. Feb. 15	Jan. 15 1941	Feb. 15 1940	5-yr. av. Feb. 15
Total fish and shellfish	Pounds 7,613,000	Percent - 6	Percent + 10	Percent + 45	Pounds 8,077,000	Pounds 6,895,000	Pounds 5,238,000
Important items:							
Fillets:							
Cod	101,000	+ 44	- 22	(2)	70,000	130,000	(2)
Haddock	1,417,000	+215	+ 31	+ 50	450,000	1,084,000	943,000
Pollock	263,000	- 80	+ 88	(2)	1,318,000	140,000	(2)
Rosefish	1,237,000	- 13	- 15	(2)	1,430,000	1,456,000	(2)
Flounders	263,000	- 6	+229	+526	280,000	80,000	42,000
Smelts	109,000	- 63	+ 95	- 31	295,000	56,000	158,000
Whiting	158,000	+ 16	+172	+147	136,000	58,000	64,000
Whitefish	137,000	+174	+ 41	--	50,000	97,000	137,000
Shrimp	1,266,000	+166	+103	(2)	476,000	625,000	(2)

1/ Statistics furnished by the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture.
2/ Data not available.

Holdings in Boston Cold-storage Plants Drop One-fifth in February

Records compiled by the Boston office of the Fishery Market News Service show that during the four-week period ending February 26 cold-storage holdings of fishery products in Boston plants dropped 19 percent, from 13,049,000 pounds to 10,615,000 pounds. This drop was largely due to lessened holdings of groundfish fillets, mackerel, and whiting. Stocks of smelt increased 376,000 pounds, an increase of 70 percent from the January 29 total.

Boston Cold-storage Holdings

Item	Feb. 26, 1941	Feb. 28 compared with Jan. 29, 1941	Feb. 28 compared with Feb. 28, 1940	Jan. 29, 1941	Feb. 28, 1940
Total fish and shellfish	Pounds 10,615,000	Percent -19	Percent + 36	Pounds 13,049,000	Pounds 7,807,000
Leading items:					
Cod fillets	719,000	-35	+ 116	1,102,000	333,000

Boston Cold-storage Holdings (continued)

Item	Feb. 26, 1941	Feb. 28 compared with Jan. 29, 1941	Feb. 28 compared with Feb. 28, 1940	Jan. 29, 1941	Feb. 28, 1940
Leading items (continued)		Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds
Haddock fillets	1,154,000	-30	+ 55	1,637,000	743,000
Pollock fillets	2,419,000	-17	+ 46	2,908,000	1,653,000
Mackerel	1,635,000	-28	+ 3	2,274,000	1,595,000
Smelt	917,000	+70	+292	541,000	234,000
Swordfish (Jap.)	17,000	-76	- 85	70,000	116,000
Swordfish (native)	107,000	-27	+664	147,000	14,000
Whiting, dressed	569,000	-46	+ 20	1,032,000	505,000*
Scallops	230,000	-36	- 27	357,000	317,000
Shrimp	210,000	-28	+1809	293,000	11,000
Squid	159,000	-15	- 66	188,000	464,000

* Includes round and dressed.

Fish Stocks in New York Cold-storage Plants Decrease during February

The Fishery Market News Service office in New York reports 7,363,000 pounds of fishery products in cold-storage plants in that city on February 27. This is a 16 percent decrease from the total of four weeks previous and a 6 percent rise from the February 29, 1940, total. Marked decreases during the four-week period were recorded for mackerel, shrimp, king salmon, and whitefish stocks.

New York Cold-storage Holdings

Item	Feb. 27, 1941	Feb. 27 compared with Jan. 30, 1941	Feb. 27 compared with Feb. 29, 1940	Jan. 30, 1941	Feb. 29, 1940
Total fish and shellfish	Pounds 7,363,000	Percent -16	Percent + 6	Pounds 8,744,000	Pounds 6,973,000
Leading items:					
Butterfish	225,000	-24	- 43	297,000	393,000
Halibut	270,000	+13	+ 86	240,000	145,000
Herring, sea and sardine	245,000	- 9	+123	270,000	110,000
Mackerel	434,000	-33	+ 58	651,000	314,000
Sablefish	165,000	-36	- 23	256,000	213,000
King salmon	570,000	-23	+ 34	741,000	424,000
Shad	260,000	+ 8	- 40	241,000	435,000
Smelt	575,000	+14	+213	504,000	184,000
Ciscoes	239,000	+ 6	- 20	225,000	298,000
Sturgeon	481,000	- 5	- 39	507,000	792,000
Whitefish	1,241,000	-13	+ 38	1,428,000	900,000
Lobster tails, spiny	255,000	-12	- 11	291,000	285,000
Scallops	208,000	-37	+ 42	331,000	146,000
Shrimp	687,000	-22	+224	878,000	212,000

Stocks of Blue Pike, Sauger, and Whitefish are Increased in Chicago

The stocks of fishery products in cold-storage plants in Chicago on February 27 aggregated 5,590,000 pounds, reports of the Chicago Fishery Market News office indicate. This was an increase of 4 percent over the total of January 30. Large increases in the stocks of blue pike and sauger and whitefish prevented a decrease in total holdings during a period when other important items were being held in lesser volume.

Chicago Cold-storage Holdings

Item	Feb. 27, 1941	Feb. 27 compared with Jan. 30, 1941	Feb. 27 compared with Feb. 29, 1940	Jan. 30, 1941	Feb. 29, 1940
Total fish and Shellfish	Pounds 5,590,000	Percent + 4	Percent + 34	Pounds 5,350,000	Pounds 4,179,000
Leading items:					
Blue pike & sauger	837,000	+275	+ 94	223,000	432,000
Lake herring and chubs	608,000	-13	+ 56	695,000	390,000
Lake trout	405,000	-23	- 33	524,000	604,000
Whitefish	498,000	+92	+ 20	259,000	416,000
Rosefish fillets	78,000	-28	- 71	108,000	269,000
Halibut	440,000	-13	+ 54	506,000	286,000
Shrimp	763,000	-10	+202	850,000	253,000

CANNED FISH TRADE

Unsold Canned Salmon Stocks Down 70 Percent

Canned salmon remaining unsold in the hands of original producers on February 28, 1941, amounted to only 459,000 standard cases of 48 one-pound cans, which was about 70 percent less than the inventories of 1,490,000 cases on the same date in the previous year, according to statistics released by the Association of Pacific Fisheries. These stocks represent the holdings in the possession of 84 Pacific Coast salmon canning firms whose output accounted for 99 percent of the pack in 1940. During February supplies were reduced by 134,000 cases with sales of Alaska red salmon and pink salmon predominating. Prices during the month remained relatively steady with slight advances in the quotations of chum and pink salmon, but with small declines in the quotations of both silver and Puget Sound sockeye salmon. Stocks of Alaska red salmon were less than 10 percent of those of a year previous while chum salmon stocks were 35 percent lower. A complete statement of unsold stocks follows:

Canned Salmon Unsold--Standard Cases

Item	February 28, 1941	January 31, 1940	February 29, 1940
Chinook or king	49,000	57,000	39,000
Puget Sound sockeye	27,000	36,000	28,000
Alaska, red	103,000	153,000	1,056,000
Silver or coho	68,000	85,000	69,000
Humpback or pink	165,000	213,000	179,000
Chum	42,000	44,000	118,000
Bluebacks and steelheads	5,000	5,000	1,000
Total	459,000	593,000	1,490,000

Below are shown the quotations of canned salmon, f.o.b. Pacific Coast shipping points as reported by Seattle salmon brokers to the Seattle Fishery Market News office on March 1, 1941.

Canned Salmon Quotations

Item	Can Size	Quotation Mar. 1, 1941 per doz. cans	Quotation Feb. 10, 1940 per doz. cans
Alaska red	1 lb. tall	$2.75	$2.75
Silver or coho	1 lb. tall	2.00 - 2.10	2.00 - 2.25
Chum	1 lb. tall	1.50	1.45 - 1.50
Humpback or pink	1 lb. tall	1.65	1.60 - 1.65
Puget Sound sockeye	1 lb. flat	3.50 - 3.60	3.50 - 3.70

Current Season's Canned Shrimp Pack still Lagging

During February 1941 South Atlantic and Gulf shrimp packers who were operating under the Seafood Inspection Service of the United States Food and Drug Administration canned 24,000 standard cases of shrimp as compared with 52,000 cases packed during January. The total pack for the current season from July 1, 1940, through March 1, 1941, reached 909,000 cases, which was about 15 percent less than the production during the corresponding period of the previous season.

Price quotations during February did not change appreciably. March 1 quotations for wet pack shrimp remained about the same as those for February 1 while prices of dry pack shrimp advanced slightly. There is shown below a complete list of price quotations for canned shrimp in usual wholesale quantities in plain No. 1 tall tins, f.o.b. point of production, March 1, 1941, as reported by Gulf Coast packers.

Canned Shrimp Prices -- Per Doz. Tins

	Wet pack		Dry pack	
	Mar. 1, 1941	Feb. 1, 1941	Mar. 1, 1941	Feb. 1, 1941
Small	$1.10 - 1.20	$1.10 - 1.20	$1.15 - 1.20	$1.10 - 1.20
Medium	1.15 - 1.35	1.20 - 1.35	1.15 - 1.35	1.20 - 1.25
Large	1.20 - 1.40	1.25 - 1.40	1.20 - 1.35	1.25 - 1.30
Extra large or jumbo	1.25 - 1.50	1.30 - 1.50	1.25 - 1.50	1.30 - 1.40

January Tuna and Mackerel Pack Lower than in First Month of 1940

The output of California tuna canners during the first month of 1941 amounted to 118,000 standard cases of 48 half-pound cans, according to preliminary data issued by the Division of Fish and Game of the State of California. This production compared with the pack of approximately 186,000 cases of tuna during January 1940 was a decline of 37 percent. About three-fourths of the pack was made up of canned yellowfin tuna.

During January, California mackerel canners reported a pack of 123,000 standard cases, which was about 66,000 cases short of the January 1940 production. Virtually the entire pack for the first month of this year was produced in the San Pedro area.

British Columbia Canned Herring Pack Sets Record

As the British Columbia canned herring season approached its close, the current season's pack at the end of January had reached approximately 608,000 cases, the largest ever produced in that Province. Several hundred cases are usually packed during late season operations; however, the bulk of the pack has been completed. According to the Commercial Fisherman's Weekly, practically the entire herring production has already been ordered or sold, with 275,000 cases going to the British Government and approximately 200,000 cases to other interests in the United Kingdom. These allotments were sold at the control price of $4 per case, f.o.b. Vancouver. There is said to have been some change in the market requirements as the demand was principally for one-pound cans without tomato sauce rather than for a pack containing sauce which at first was considered a rather important ingredient. Herring by-products were said to be moving slow with buyers for oil showing little or no interest in purchasing.

FOREIGN FISHERY TRADE

Exports of Edible Fishery Products Decline

Exports of edible fishery products from the United States during January totaled 10,583,000 pounds--a decline of 39 percent as compared with the same month last year. Reduced shipments of canned sardines, which totaled but 4,635,000 pounds as compared with 11,740,000 pounds in January 1940, were responsible for the decline. Exports of canned salmon, which amounted to 4,056,000 pounds, were 17 percent greater than those in January a year ago.

The United Kingdom received nearly 93 percent of the canned salmon exported from this country during January. Countries receiving the major portion of the exports of canned sardines were the Philippine Islands, which took 1,831,000 pounds; the United Kingdom,

733,000 pounds; British Malaya, 714,000 pounds; Venezuela, 279,000 pounds; and Cuba, 256,000 pounds. Nearly 80 percent of the canned shrimp exported during January was received by Canada.

United States Exports of Edible Fishery Products 1/

Item	January 1941	January 1940
	Pounds	Pounds
Salmon, canned	4,056,000	3,473,000
Sardines, canned	4,635,000	11,740,000
Shrimp, canned	139,000	118,000
Other products	1,753,000	1,921,000
Total	10,583,000	17,252,000

1/ Data furnished by Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Imports of Canned Fishery Products Show Marked Decline

A total of 27,697,000 pounds of edible fishery products were imported into the United States during January--a decline of 29 percent as compared with the same month last year. Reduced imports of canned crab meat and tuna, which are received principally from Japan, accounted for the major portion of the decline. The principal items received during January were fresh or frozen fresh-water fish, 7,084,000 pounds; salted herring, 6,128,000 pounds; salted groundfish, 3,778,000 pounds; and fresh and frozen smelt, 1,964,000 pounds.

Imports of Edible Fishery Products into the United States 1/

Item	January 1941	January 1940
	Pounds	Pounds
Fresh or frozen:		
Fresh-water fish	7,084,000	7,426,000
Halibut	337,000	248,000
Salmon	203,000	282,000
Sea herring	564,000	406,000
Smelt	1,964,000	1,785,000
Tuna	--	241,000
Fish filleted, skinned, boned, etc.	1,218,000	1,540,000
Lobsters	1,534,000	1,449,000
Pickled or salted:		
Cod, haddock, hake, etc.	3,778,000	2,973,000
Herring	6,128,000	7,017,000
Canned:		
Crab meat	239,000	6,879,000
Lobsters	146,000	118,000
Sardines	642,000	1,018,000
Tuna	199,000	2,281,000
Other fresh, frozen, salted, canned, etc.	3,661,000	5,173,000
Total	27,697,000	38,836,000

1/ Data furnished by Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Mexican Codfish Market

According to the Commercial Intelligence Journal, about 400 metric tons of codfish are imported annually into Mexico. Before the outbreak of the present European war the major portion of these imports was from Norway since the Norwegian cure is said to be preferred in the Mexican markets--that is, dry and well-cured fish, either boneless or with bones.

Ordinarily the boned fish is imported in boxes of 19 kilos net while the cod with bones is shipped in unlined boxes of 45 kilos net. In 1939 Norway shipped about 377,000 kilos to Mexico at which time Norway operated a direct line of steamers to Mexico, the fish trade supplementing her cellulose trade. Mexico now has no direct shipping service with Norway; consequently, other countries are afforded a favorable opportunity in the Mexican codfish market. Consumers of this commodity are chiefly centered in the capital. Cures suitable for the Cuban market are understood not to be in demand in Mexico; therefore, exporters expecting to engage in the Mexican trade should give some consideration to the type of cured codfish desired in that country.

Australian Imports of Fishery Products

A moderate decline in the value of imports of fishery products into Australia from all countries is indicated by the unrevised figures covering that country's overseas trade during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1940, as issued by the Commonwealth Statistician and reported in the Commercial Fisherman's Weekly. Imports of canned fish during that fiscal year were valued at $3,950,000 as compared with shipments valued at $4,258,000 during the previous fiscal year of 1938-39. Fresh and smoked fish imports declined from $1,447,000 to $1,363,000.

THE COVER PAGE

The cover page this month shows a fisherman of the South Atlantic region mending a gill net. Repairing and mending gear which becomes worn by continuous use occupies a considerable portion of the average fisherman's time. The gill net is an important type of apparatus in our commercial fisheries. The Service's most recent statistics showed that somewhat over 200,000 gill nets of all types are operated by fishermen in the United States and Alaska. Among the principal species of fish captured with this gear are salmon, mackerel, king mackerel, bluefish, mullet, shad, groundfish, lake trout, and whitefish.

FISHERY TRADE INDICATORS
(Expressed in Thousands of Pounds)

Item	Month	Latest month	Same month a year ago	Previous month
FRESH FISH LANDINGS				
Boston, Mass.	January	16,161	20,556	20,751
Gloucester, Mass.	do	3,728	3,189	8,440
Portland, Maine	do	895	1,251	1,124
Boston, Gloucester, and Portland:				
Cod	do	3,314	4,105	5,096
Haddock	do	8,172	8,969	6,245
Pollock	do	1,662	2,716	7,928
Rosefish	do	5,284	6,524	7,351
FISH RECEIPTS, CHICAGO 1/				
Salt-water fish	do	1,110	1,007	1,388
Fresh-water fish	do	3,381	2,304	3,003
Shellfish, etc.	do	997	789	1,523
By truck	do	1,987	1,048	2,500
By express	do	801	1,204	846
By freight	do	2,760	1,849	2,567
COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS 2/				
New York, N. Y.:				
Salt-water fish	February	3,688	3,742	4,365
Fresh-water fish	do	2,369	2,228	2,702
Shellfish, etc.	do	1,306	1,003	1,677
Boston, Mass.:				
Salt-water fish	do	9,926	7,178	12,100
Fresh-water fish	do	45	18	55
Shellfish, etc.	do	644	611	895
Chicago, Ill.:				
Salt-water fish	do	1,375	1,334	1,590
Fresh-water fish	do	3,074	2,298	2,336
Shellfish, etc.	do	994	427	1,118
Unclassified	do	147	119	306
United States:				
Cod fillets	do	2,020	1,416	2,621
Haddock fillets	do	4,134	3,303	5,066
Halibut	do	5,697	2,658	7,607
Mackerel	do	4,259	4,278	6,132
Pollock fillets	do	4,933	4,458	6,128
Rosefish fillets	do	867	3,029	1,460
Salmon	do	7,429	4,379	9,115
Whiting	do	6,274	5,714	8,663
Shrimp	do	5,143	3,051	5,808
New England, all species	do	19,271	19,783	25,624
Middle Atlantic, all species	do	13,129	13,518	15,531
South Atlantic, all species	do	3,513	4,039	4,178
North Central East, all species	do	14,971	11,110	15,477
North Central West, all species	do	3,785	3,599	4,358
South Central, all species	do	3,176	1,421	3,760
Pacific, all species	do	13,489	9,152	17,690
FOREIGN FISHERY TRADE 3/				
Exports:				
All edible fishery commodities	January	10,583	17,252	13,726
Canned salmon	do	4,056	3,473	2,522
Canned sardines	do	4,635	11,740	9,498
Canned shrimp	do	139	118	373
Imports:				
All edible fishery commodities	do	27,697	38,836	26,851
Fresh-water fish and eels, fresh or frozen	do	7,084	7,426	6,773
Canned tuna	do	199	2,281	514
Canned sardines	do	642	1,018	630
Cod, haddock, hake, etc., pickled or salted	do	3,778	2,973	6,811
Herring, pickled or salted	do	6,128	7,017	2,028
Crab meat, sauce, etc.	do	239	6,879	33
Lobsters, not canned	do	1,534	1,449	1,809
Lobsters, canned	do	146	118	127

1/ Includes all arrivals as reported by express and rail terminals, and truck receipts as reported by wholesale dealers, including smokers.

2/ Data for individual cities are as of the last Thursday of the month, except those at Boston which are for the last Wednesday of the month, and those for geographical areas and the total of the United States which are as of the 15th of the month.

3/ From data compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Note.-- Data for the latest month are subject to revision.

FISHERY MARKET NEWS

The information collected and compiled by the various Fishery Market News offices is disseminated both in printed form and by radio.

The printed releases consist of:

1. Daily mimeographed reports.
2. Monthly mimeographed summaries.
3. Periodic rotoprinted reviews. (Fishery Market News)
4. Annual mimeographed summaries.

The radio information consists of Market Broadcasts and Consumer Broadcasts:

1. Each week day - A Market Broadcast condensed from the Market News report is broadcast by a local station.
2. Four times weekly - Consumer Broadcasts suggesting good buys and giving useful information about the purchase or preparation of fish are broadcast by 10 to 20 stations within the area of local distribution.

The information issued by each of the various offices is indicated by an "x" in the following tabulation.

Office & Address	Reports & Summaries			Market Broadcasts*			
	Daily	Monthly	Annual	Station	Frequency	Time	
						A.M.	P.M.
33A Fulton St., NEW YORK, N. Y.	x	x	x	WOR	710	6:45	-
253½ Northern Ave., BOSTON, Mass.	x	x	x	WHDH	850	10:30	4:15
200 N. Jefferson St., CHICAGO, Ill.	x	x	x	WJJD	1160	6:30	1:00
417 Bell St. Terminal, SEATTLE, Wash.	x	x	x	-	-	-	-
309 Duval Bldg., JACKSONVILLE, Fla.	x	-	x	WJAX	930	7:45	-
1100 Decatur St., NEW ORLEANS, La.	x	x	x	WWL	870	5:10	-
WASHINGTON, D. C.	-	**	-	-	-	-	-

* Consumer Broadcasts are released by all offices.

** Periodic review entitled Fishery Market News.

Requests to be placed upon mailing lists should be addressed to FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE, FISHERY MARKET NEWS SERVICE. Reports or summaries should be requested from the regional offices and the periodic review from Washington. There is no charge for the publications listed.